FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Security/Political Developments — Representatives of warring factions in West Beirut have agreed to withdraw gunmen from the streets in order to allow the Internal Security Forces to take over security in the western sector on 26 March, assisted "when necessary" by the Army's 6th Brigade. The agreement, which was broadcast by Beirut radio, was reached "unanimously" at a meeting in the chief mufti's house attended by representatives of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), the Amal Movement, and Al-Murabitun, commanders of the Internal Security Forces and the 6th Brigade, and prominent political and religious leaders. The agreement stipulates that parties will be able to maintain existing political and social offices in West Beirut "without any armed manifestation." The chief mufti will appoint a special committee to supervise operations of Al-Murabitun's clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, which remained off the air over the weekend.

Meanwhile, the capital was relatively calm over the weekend, according to Beirut radio, as the French contingent began to withdraw prior to its departure for France. Confirming that PSP forces were abiding by a cease-fire after capturing "all the Al-Murabitun offices in nationalist Beirut," the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio said the PSP had handed over the Al-Murabitun headquarters and radio building to the Internal Security Forces, but warned that "certain people" released by the PSP had entered the radio building and booby-trapped it. Commenting on the "treacherous" attack on his forces in a Radio Monte Carlo interview from Damascus, Al-Murabitun leader Ibrahim Qulaylat denied his organization was responsible for insecurity and kidnappings in West Beirut, terming such charges "lies and slander." Qulaylat also discounted reports that the Amal was involved in the fighting against Al-Murabitun. PSP leader Walid Junblatt said in a statement reported by Beirut radio that the PSP's decision to take "necessary" action against Al-Murabitun was made in coordination with Amal.

Junblatt refused to meet with Qulaylat while in Damascus over the weekend, Radio Monte Carlo reported, but he met with other Lebanese organizations to discuss the formation of a new opposition group to replace the National Salvation Front. Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently announced that a new "national movement" has been established under Junblatt's leadership although Amal leader Nabih Birri has "refused" to participate. In other developments in Damascus, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad discussed the Lebanese situation in a meeting with former President Sulayman Franjiyah and in a telephone conversation with President Amin al-Jumayyil, according to Damascus radio. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met separately with Sunni and Druze leaders from Lebanon to make arrangements to control security in West Beirut, the radio noted.

Islamic Jihad's Threat — The Islamic Jihad organization has sent letters to U.S., British, French, and Italian embassies, banks, and airlines in several countries threatening to "avenge" the "massacres" and "crimes" of the Multinational Force in Lebanon, Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces destroyed four oil tankers and cargo ships in an attack south of Khark Island on 24 March, a spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. The spokesman also reiterated earlier warnings that Iraq will "strongly attack" any naval target approaching Khark or other Iranian ports within the "prohibitive zone of war operations." A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters, in remarks reported by IRNA on 25 March, referred to the "baseless" Iraqi claims as "mere lies." Such "false allegations" attempt to portray the Gulf area as "insecure" in order to disrupt shipping, the spokesman added.

In other military activity over the weekend, Iranian units shot down one Iraqi plane and one helicopter in the Khaybar operation zone on 23 March, according to a military communique carried by Tehran radio. A communique broadcast by Baghdad radio admitted the loss of one plane which crashed over Iranian positions in the operational sector east of Basra.

Meanwhile, the Algerian foreign minister has proposed a 10-point plan to end the Iranian-Iraqi war, Abu Dhabi radio announced citing the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN*. Algeria has dispatched envoys to the region to hold consultations in this regard and has requested Syrian officials to persuade Iran to accept the Algerian plan.

Jordan

The dissident Palestinian group Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal, claimed responsibility for a 24 March bomb explosion near the U.S. Embassy in Amman which slightly injured two people, AFP announced. The group said the attack was in response to "acts of terrorism perpetrated by the Jordanian regime against Palestinian combatants and Jordanian nationalists." The group threatened to "multiply its attacks" against Jordan and "its agents," AFP added.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives issued a statement, broadcast by Amman radio on 25 March, announcing support for King Husayn's "condemnation" of the "biased" U.S. policy which backs Israel's aggression against the Arab nation. The statement also supported an international conference to discuss the Arab-Israeli dispute in which the five permanent Security Council members would take part.

Egypt

Mubarak in Sudan — President Husni Mubarak paid a short visit to Khartoum on 25 March for private talks with President Numayri to discuss the "Libyan air raid" on Omdurman and bilateral relations, MENA and SUNA announced. Egypt stands alongside Sudan "with all its resources in any situation," Mubarak affirmed in a speech reported by MENA.

'Ali in Iraq — Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali arrived in Baghdad on 24 March for talks at the invitation of his Iraqi counterpart, MENA stated. In addition to discussing bilateral relations, the Iran-Iraq war, Lebanon, and other Arab issues, 'Ali will deliver a message from Mubarak to the Iraqi president, MENA added. The foreign minister, in statements reported by Baghdad radio, reaffirmed Egypt's support for Iraq in its war with Iran, describing this as a "cornerstone of the strong relations" between the two countries. Iraqi ideas for a "reconciliatory formula" which would restore Egypt to the Arab League without disrupting its international or Arab commitments were also discussed in various meetings between 'Ali, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Syria

All rumors regarding a deterioration in President Hafiz al-Asad's health are "lies and fabrications," a Republican Palace spokesman asserted in comments reported by Radio Monte Carlo. The president's health is "very good" and he is performing his daily duties "as usual," the spokesman added. The president received a delegation from *TIME* magazine on 23 March, Damascus radio noted.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 059 *26 March 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Light Industry, Foodstuffs Minister Appointed ..... C 1
BAKHTAR Criticizes U.S. Administration ..... C 1
Mosque Bombing, Islam, Revolution Viewed ..... C 1
SPA: Mujahidin Destroy Soviet Aircraft, Tanks ..... C 2
'Counterrevolutionaries' Sentenced in Jalalabad ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

28 March Set as Date for Talks With Opposition ..... D 1
President Ershad Addresses Nation 25 March ..... D 1
Janadal Merges With '18-Point' Council ..... D 1
Foreign Minister Returns From Mideast Tour ..... D 1

INDIA

Formal Talks Held With Striking Dock Workers ..... E 1
Second Session ..... E 1
Discussion 'Inconclusive' ..... E 1
AFP: Paradip Police Said To Act in Self-Defense ..... E 1
Gandhi: Very Anxious for Better U.S. Ties ..... E 2
Venkataraman on Countering Pakistan Arms Buildup ..... E 2
Vajpayee Suggests Summit With Pakistan ..... E 2
Official on Embassy Workers' Return From Pakistan ..... E 2
YAR Seeks Delhi Aid on Iran-Iraq Cease-fire ..... E 2
Two 'Extremists' Captured in Amritsar District ..... E 3
'Miscreants' Set Fire to Buses in Punjab ..... E 3
Order Curtails Carrying of Handbags, Containers ..... E 3
Domestic Satellite 'Performing Excellently' ..... E 3

PAKISTAN

Afghan Plane Crashes Near Quetta; Pilot Dies ..... F 1
Ziaul Haq Speaks at National Day Parade ..... F 1
AFP Reports Opposition Leaders Arrested ..... F 1
Law Students Take Hostages, Clash With Police ..... F 2
Delhi: Hostages Released ..... F 2
School Examination Centers Made Prohibited Areas ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

PRC President Calls Visit 'Complete Success' ..... G 1
Departs 23 March ..... G 1
China To Assist in Road Construction Project ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Trade, Shipping Minister Assumes Security Post ..... G 1
Discusses Terrorism ..... G 1
Visits Jaffna ..... G 2
Parliament Passes Extension of State of Emergency ..... G 2
Ministers Comment on Dispute With India ..... G 2

IRAN

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses Chemical Weapons ..... I 1
IRNA: Iraqi Claims of Destroying Ships 'Lies' ..... I 2
Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques ..... I 2
Communique No 1,674 ..... I 2
Communique No 1,675 ..... I 3
Communique No 1,676 ..... I 3
2 Iraqi Planes Downed 23 March in Khaybar Area ..... I 3
IRNA Notes Soviet-Iraqi Nuclear Agreement ..... I 3
Islamic Jihad Organization Sends Warnings ..... I 4
President Khamene'i Receives Group Leaving for Front ..... I 4
Corps Mobilization Unit Departs for War Zone ..... I 4
Guards Request Volunteers for Battle Front ..... I 4
Brigade Members Vow To Stay at Fronts ..... I 4
Cabinet Discusses War, Elections, Holiday ..... I 5
Election Registration Deadline Extended ..... I 5

Light Industry, Foodstuffs Minister Appointed
LD231935 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 22, BAKHTAR — Engineer Mohammad Aziz has been appointed as the minister of light industry and foodstuffs of the DRA by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

This new ministry has been established within the framework of the Council of Ministers of the DRA recently. The ministry has under its authority some departments and light industries which have been separated from the ministry of mines and industry, the ministry of commerce and some other ministries.

BAKHTAR Criticizes U.S. Administration
LD250703 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0437 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 24, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BIA writes: U.S. President Reagan, in his speech on March 21, on the occasion of the so-called "day of Afghanistan" once again [words indistinct] the U.S. plots and conspiracies against Islam and the Moslem people of Afghanistan. In fact, the United States officially once again declared its hostile policy against the people and the national democratic and anti-imperialist revolution of Afghanistan.

The inhuman and un-Islamic policy of the United States was exposed in the most impudent manner in the past six years. Reagan administration has intensified its undeclared war and its broad psychological war against the country and the people of Afghanistan.

It has also considerably raised its financial assistance to the counter-revolutionary elements in order to provide military training to the mercenaries, and to equip them with lethal arms and to export them to revolutionary Afghanistan for carrying out subversive activities. These subversive activities include the destruction of mosques, schools, hospitals, bridges and road and even the massacre of clergymen and religious leaders.

The blowing up of the mosque of the institute of Polytechnic in Kabul recently when the devout Muslim people were assembled there for saying their prayers, causing several deaths and injuries is another glaring example of the terrorism conducted by Reagan administration through its hirelings.

Mosque Bombing, Islam, Revolution Viewed
LD250154 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The great satan — USA — again invaded a holy place as it invaded the 'Aqsa Mosque in the guise of an Israeli and took [word indistinct] Islam — the religion of many hundreds of millions of the inhabitants of the earth. God help the United States and God help the inability and despicablity of small satans such as the ration-collecters [as heard] of the United States.

The incident at the Polytechnic Mosque, in which [illegible] of noble clergy were martyred, proved many things one [illegible]re resolutely than the past.

The despicable and despised enemy might be proud of himself in saying what a masterpiece has been accomplished and perhaps ground has been prepared for the satanic propaganda machinery of the West to manufacture fallacy.

Muslims of revolutionary Afghanistan: We congratulate you on the martyrdom of the four militant clergy and the injury of tens of noble and brave clergy. Congratulations for this reason: that on the side of hundreds and thousands of your revolutionary sons, your soldiers, your officers, revolution guards, and defenders of your honor, once again the red blood of the courageous and fighting clergy who were supporting the revolution, was shed in a mosque. This red and pure blood is the pride of the brave and patriotic clergy of Afghanistan and, in fact, is the renewal of solidarity pledge of the revolutionary clergy with the revolutionary government.

(?Standard-bearer) of global blasphemy — the blood thirsty and criminal United States — with the assistance of devil's sons, these illegitimate sons and these mindless impudents — who have sold their conscience to Reagan and the devil — what have they proved by planting the bomb?

They proved the truth of our revolution. When the call of the revolution, particularly after its development stage, regarded the [word indistinct] fighting clergy as protectors of the revolution; when revolution counted mullahs, recitalists, teachers,and noble ulema as part of the toilers and they reciprocally counted the revolution as their protector, the counterrevolutionaries, despite false claims of defending Islam, started killing the clergy. Then in a simple examination and with rational thinking, what conclusion can we reach?

The conclusion is that if a clergy and ulema of religion shake the hand of the homeland's worker and raise his voice with preasant and toiler of the homeland, the White House issues the order for his execution.

The martyrdom of a number of other clergy in the holy Polytechnic Mosque once again proved the truth of party and the revolutionary government's support for the truthful Islam and [word indistinct] Islam.

Yes, you mother, you sister, you brother, and you compatriot, if the bullets of the enemy, if the bullets and bombs of the United States and China had not penetrated the pure body of the clergy like your son, your brother, like your soldier and officer brother, surely the claim of the party and our government of being the protector of Islam and faith of the people would have been false.

However, you can see how the enemy's bullet and enemy's bomb, besides striking soldiers, members of the party, and youths of the homeland, also shed blood from the body of clergy; and you can see that these bombs and bullets find their way to the mosque. Then why is there fighting? It is a class war; it is not a war between infidel and Islam.

The incident of planting a bomb in the holy Polytechnic Mosque, though it was very painful and unpleasant, is an honor for every patriotic and militant clergy member as it proved once again in daylight and purity of angels that the militant clergy stand in the ranks of the soldiers.

Militant clergy of Afghanistan: Congratulations on this martyrdom and this pure blood which revealed your revolutionary characteristic as clearly as daylight.

But you, the feeble enemy and you, mini-extremist groups, that count clergy as reactionary and unrevolutionary, and you, notorious Reagan, you all know and be aware that if the worker youth, soldier of the homeland, and revolution guard who defend power pylons, industrial installations, factory, and land as the vital resources, they will defend their mosque and clergy as their sacred honor.

Courageous and patriotic clergy, now it is the time to rise up with more courage then before to preach religion and justice and to defend the Holy Koran and mosque like a soldier so that the enemy of religion and homeland finds no opportunity to insult your sacred sanctity.

God help the executioner and feeble Reagan who stupidly, by issuing the order for the murder of a number of clergy, wants to intimidate the revolutionary clergy of Moslem Afghanistan.

Militant clergy of Afghanistan, the the glorious jirga of ulema and clergy of Afghanistan by the martyrdom of four pious has been glorified as were the gains of this glorious jirga and this great solidarity of the militant clergy with the revolutionary government; so great was it that it forced the enemy to this savage, mindless, and barbaric deed.

Noble clergy of Afghanistan, congratulations on the martyrdom of another four clergy for whom Heaven will be the place; their red blood brings the message of the victory of right over wrong and elimination of oppression and cruelty.

SPA: Mujahidin Destroy Soviet Aircraft, Tanks

LD222057 Riyadh SPA in English 1903 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 22, SPA — Afghan mujahideen have destroyed three Soviet aircrafts and two tanks during an attack on Lashkargarh Airport on March 20, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS (AAP) reported today.

The mujahideen, fully armed with rocket-launchers and other light weapons, lauched the surprise attack on the airport on Tuesday night, which caused confusion among communist defenders.

The resistance fire also set ablaze the fuel dump at the airport.

'Counterrevolutionaries' Sentenced in Jalalabad

LD180445 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The judicial panel of the special revolutionary court, which arrived recently in Jalalabad City to consider cases arising from crimes by the counterrevolutionaries, has considered 79 dossiers involving 111 accused and has rendered decisions in accordance with the provisions of the law.

The judicial panel, in continuation of its judicial proceedings, held an open court the day before yesterday on two separate cases, which was attended by 1,000 people, including ulema, elders, students, pupils, representatives of social organizations, citizens, and personnel of the various government departments of Nangarhar Province.

A court spokeman said that the right of defense was given to the accused after the prosecution stated its case. Admitting their counterrevolutionary deeds, they repented their past actions and appealed to the court for mercy.

The judicial panel in accordance with the provisions of law and in consideration of the social and personal conditions of each accused, rendered its decisions:

1. 'Anayatullah, son of Abdol Manan, former officer of the Armed Forces, belonging to Gulbuddin band, accused of armed resistance, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in view of Article 8, Paragraph 1 of the Law on Punishment and Crimes Against War Mobilization and Paragraph 4 of Article 221 of the Penal Law.

2. Faqir Mohammad, son of Mohammad Hashim, charged with armed resistance, was sentenced to 16 years imprisonment in accordance with Article 175, Article 30, and Paragraph 4 of Article 221 of the Penal Law.

3. Mohammad Mosa, son of Mohammad Na'em, inhabitant of Behsoud, Nangarhar Province, charged with child abduction, extortion, and attempting to use a hand grenade, was sentenced to 5 years detention in the penitentiary, due to his adolescence, in light of Paragraph 4 of Article 221, Paragraph 3 of Article 213, and Article 515 of the Penal Law and in consideration of Paragraph 2 of Article 84 of the above law.

28 March Set as Date for Talks With Opposition

BK241718 Hong Kong AFP in English 1711 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Dhaka, March 24 (AFP) — Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad today announced that he had invited the country's major opposition alliances for talks on Wednesday aimed at resolving the country's current political crisis.

Speaking to journalists attending a reception at the presidential palace, Lieutenant General Ershad said the March 28 date had been fixed after the opposition responded favourably to his offer for a fresh dialogue.

The two major opposition alliances had earlier spurned invitations to enter into any dialogue with his regime in January, insisting on the government meeting a 5-point series of demands as a pre-condition for any talks.

Presidential Special Assistant A.R. Yusuf said that invitations were being issued for separate meetings to the 15-party and 7-party alliances and to the Jamaat-e-Islami, an Islamic fundamentalist party. He said the timetable for the presidential and parliamentary polls would be the main issue of discussion at the talks.

But a spokesman for the 15-party alliance, Rashed Khan Menon, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that his group would not join any talks "without the people's consent and unless such demands like open politics and freedom of political prisoners were ensured."

President Ershad Addresses Nation 25 March

BK251458 [Editorial Report] Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali at 1300 GMT on 25 March carries a 13-minute live address to the nation by President General H.M. Ershad on the eve of Independence Day. Reception is poor to unmonitorable.

The president deals at length with the achievements of his government during the past 2 years in the economic field. He says "the current food situation is very satisfactory" and large quantities of foodgrains have been distributed in the rural areas at reasonable rates.

The president continues: The present government is making its best effort to implement all its pledges. Along with development work, the government is making sincere efforts to "establish a stable and genuine democracy." With the reorganization of the districts and subdistricts as a measure of decentralization of the administration, the government has declared "the timetable for the elections from the local governments to president and parliament. Meanwhile, the elections to the union council and municipalities have been completed with great enthusiasm."

Gen Ershad says that having faith in democracy and national unity, the government invited the political parties to a dialogue in January to discuss their demands. "After a month-long dialogue, in an address to the nation on 29 February, I declared to hold the presidential and parliamentary elections on the same day — 27 May. I also said I will welcome any leader, party, or alliance if they want to hold talks in our efforts for transition to democracy. However, it was later noticed that a large number of political parties were demanding that the parliamentary election should be held before the subdistrict elections. It should be mentioned in this context that, although these parties were invited afterward to attend the dialogue, they did not take part in it nor did they formally present their demands to the government. It was further noticed after a few days that for some reason or other a serious situation developed, with the (?opposing) viewpoints on subdistrict elections gradually leading to a clashing stage." To avoid that situation and at the assurance of the political parties, "the government decided to postpone the subdistrict elections until the presidential and parliamentary elections. It was also hoped at the same time that on the basis of this decision all political parties of the country will take part in the dialogue with the government on the overall future democratic system, including presidential and parliamentary elections."

The president continues: "I have repeatedly stated and firmly believe that a peaceful set up is the precondition for transformation to democracy." He voices hope that the political parties will respond to it favorably. He adds: "I firmly believe that if there is good will and understanding, it is possible to resolve any political problem."

Turning to foreign affairs, Gen Ershad says that in the past 2 years the friends of Bangladesh have increased in number. He says that the role Bangladesh played at the Group of 77 and other international conferences has enhanced the prestige of the country. "We are making constant efforts to improve relations with neighboring states and other friendly nations," he says.

In conclusion, President Ershad appeals to the people to help the government for the progress of the nation.

Janadal Merges With '18-Point' Council

BK241107 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Janadal and the 18-Point Implementation Council at all levels have been merged. A decision to this effect was taken yesterday at a meeting of the special committee constituted for merger of 18-Point Implementation Council and Janadal.

The aim of the merger is to implement and reach to the doorsteps of the people the fruits of the 18-point program.

Foreign Minister Returns From Mideast Tour

BK201034 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha returned to Dhaka this morning at the end of a 10-day visit to Middle East countries.

During the trip, he held talks with leaders on matters of mutual interest and international issues.

Doha, who visited the UAE, Egypt, Iraq, and Kuwait, met the heads of state, foreign ministers, and other government leaders and held serious talks with them on various issues, including the Iran-Iraq war and Palestinian problem.

The foreign minister also delivered personal messages from Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, president and chief martial law administrator, to the heads of state of the four Arab countries.

Formal Talks Held With Striking Dock Workers

BK241629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Formal talks between the shipping and transport minister, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, and leaders of striking port and dock workers began in New Delhi today. It will be resumed tomorrow. Today's meeting lasted over 90 minutes. An official spokesman said the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere.

Replying to newsmen's query, the spokesman said that the discussions covered certain demands of the workers. A number of alternative proposals are being worked out. The labor representatives indicated that they would like to discuss the proposals among themselves before the talks are resumed tomorrow.

The meeting was attended by Mr S.R. Kulkarni and Mr Anthony Pillai of the All-India Port and Dock Workers Federation, Mr Janaki Mukherjee of the Indian National Port and Dock Workers Federation, Mr Kalayanasunderam of the Port, Dock, and Waterfront Workers Federation, and Mr M.M. Lowrence of the Water Transport Workers Federation of India. Mr Indrajit Gupta, member of parliament, and the Indian National Trade Union Congress leader, Mr M.K. Bhat, were among others who took part in the talks.

Meanwhile, the emergency operations are continuing at various ports. So far, over 6 lakh tons of crude and edible oil have been unloaded at Bombay, Kandla, Cochin, and Visakhapatnam.

Second Session

BK251249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The second session of talks to find a solution to the port and dock workers' strike began in New Delhi this evening. The All-India Radio correspondent reports that in the first session held in the afternoon, representatives of the concerned trade unions discussed various alternative proposals suggested by the government with the shipping and transport minister, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy. The talks lasted 2 and 1/2 hours. According to official sources, the discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere.

One hundred tons of the soybean oil were taken out of the Madras port till noon today in tanker lorries of the State Trading Corporation of India. This follows the port workers' decision to allow movement of edible oils out of the port. According to a spokesman of the Madras Port Trust, 11 vessels were berthed in the port.

Discussion 'Inconclusive'

BK261253 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] In New Delhi, the talks to resolve the port and dock workers strike remained inconclusive today. Discussions will be resumed tomorrow.

The leaders of port and dock workers had an hour-long meeting with the shipping and transport minister, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy.

An official spokesman described as incorrect a report that emergency cargo handling operation has started at Paradip port. He said only a small number of Navy personnel are helping port authorities in maintaining essential services.

AFP: Paradip Police Said To Act in Self-Defense

BK240813 Hong Kong AFP in English 0727 GMT 24 Mar 84

[By Joel Henri]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 24 (AFP) — The chief minister of Orissa State has said that the police were acting "in legitimate self-defense" when they opened fire Monday on dock workers in Paradip, one of ten Indian ports paralysed by a dockers' strike now in its ninth day. J.B. Patnaik said that there were nine deaths, including four police officers, and denied that the death toll had reached 100 as earlier reported by the conservative and communist opposition who were at the scene Tuesday.

After a stormy six-hour debate in the local parliament late last night, Mr. Paitnak, quoted by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, said police had fired 43 bullets while surrounded by hundreds of people who threw various objects at them. He rejected a demand for a judicial probe and merely called for an immediate administrative investigation into the behaviour of the policemen.

According to an opposition investigating committee, the policemen, who were enraged by the death of four of their colleagues, killed more than 100 people and set some 3,000 huts ablaze in Paradip on Monday. A special correspondent of *THE HIN DUSTAN TIMES*, which is close to the federal government, reported that more than 300 people were killed and their bodies thrown into the sea or into the flames of homes torched by the policemen.

Mr. Patnaik argued that if that many bodies had been thrown into sea, they would have already been washed up on the beaches near Paradip.

Opposition members then protested and inquired about bodies thrown into the flames, PTI said today in its account of the debate.

The chief minister also said that 451 houses and 174 shops were burned during the incidents after a police station which was set ablaze by protesters spread to an entire area of the port fanned by a strong wind. He added that 2,748 people had been left homeless and were receiving aid from the state government. Losses were estimated at 120,000 rupees (12,000 dollars). According to the parliamentary investigating committee, more than 3,000 homes were destroyed by fire and damages came to 40 million rupees (four million dollars).

Gandhi: Very Anxious for Better U.S. Ties

BK241612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister said that the United States has the most marvelous opportunity of giving a lead, which is not toward confrontation but toward seeing how there can be better human beings. In an interview with an American daily, Mrs Gandhi said it is strange that the United States assumes a confrontationist attitude toward others. She was answering a question about the call by some top aides of President Reagan for retaliating against countries that vote against the U.S. position at the United Nations.

About relations with the United States, the prime minister said India is very anxious for better ties and she herself found President Reagan extremely easy to talk to. However, a personal relationship does not always help.

Mrs Gandhi said India is nonaligned and one has to support some causes and be against some others. The nonaligned have always spoken up on happenings of the world. They, however, include many different types of nations with different views. The only thing common among them is that they do not belong to a military bloc and they stand for freedom for those who are not free.

On the U.S. proposal to withdraw from the UNESCO, Mrs Gandhi said it is a great pity. She hoped that they will not do so because Washington has not only helped financially, but U.S. delegations have contributed to the functioning of the organization.

Venkataraman on Countering Pakistan Arms Buildup

BK231405 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] India's Defense Minister Venkataraman has said that the rate at which Pakistan is acquiring massive and sophisticated armsmakes it absolutely necessary for our country to be fully prepared and safeguard the national interests. The minister said that huge arms buildup by Pakistan cannot but cause alarm to India. Mr Venkataraman said this in the lower house of the parliament today. He said the government would be guilty of gross negligence and dereliction of duty if it did not take into account the circumstances surrounding the country and make adequate preparations. Mr Venkataraman told the house that as of now India has an edge over Pakistan. This is becuase of the matching defense efforts made by the government since 1980 when the United States started inducting sophisticated arms into Pakistan. This caused a change in the security environment of the region detrimental to India.

The defense minister pointed out that the security situation around India is changing rapidly with Pakistan becoming a center of strategic consensus [as heard] of the United States. Pakistan is getting weapons and equipment in excess of its defense needs. He said more arms supplies to Pakistan are in the pipeline. They will be getting some supplies in September, some in October and November, and some in December. Mr Venkataraman said he could not take Pakistan at its words when it gave the assurance that it has no intention to attack India. This is because of Pakistan's past history and performance which show that whenever it collected sophisticated arms, it tried them on us.

Referring to the conflicting reports about Pakistan's nuclear capability, he said we would proceed on the assumption that Pakistan has acquired this capability and prepare the country accordingly. He, however, made it clear that India is committed to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The defense minister quoted figures about the military equipment Pakistan is acquiring. This included F-16's, (? Mirages), Harpoon missiles, battle tanks, latest artillery guns, and armored personnel carriers. He said the country would soon be acquiring the latest advanced version of MIG aircraft which would be far superior to the F-16. A prototype of the main battle tank has been developed and given to the Army for tests. The minister said our research and development experts are working on developing a 1,500-horsepower engine for the tank.

Vajpayee Suggests Summit With Pakistan

BK241601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has suggested an Indo-Pakistan summit meeting to discuss the relations between the two countries. Talking to newsmen in Kolhapur he said there could also be a meeting at foreign ministers level.

Official on Embassy Workers' Return From Pakistan

BK230933 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The government has clear evidence of the connivance of the Pakistani authorities in the recent disappearance and subsequent return to India of two servants of an Indian diplomat in Islamabad. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr A.A. Rahim, in the Rajya Sabha. He said they were pushed across the border by officials of a certain Pakistani agency. The government, therefore, has not considered the question of prosecuting them for returning to India without travel documents. The minister said the officials were sent across the border on foot. He said the Pakistan Government was informed that the question of returning them does not arise.

YAR Seeks Delhi Aid on Iran-Iraq Cease-fire

BK251413 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The Yemen Arab Republic has sought India's immediate intervention to bring about a cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war and help resolve the crisis in West Asia. The Yemen ambassador, Mr Haider, said in New Delhi today that his country has conveyed to the Indian Government that Mrs Gandhi's initiative as leader of the Nonaligned Movement would create an atmosphere for a negotiated settlement of the crises. Mr Haider was speaking at a

farewell lunch in his honor by the secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Ramesh Bhandari.

Two 'Extremists' Captured in Amritsar District

BK240907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] After a heavy exchange of fire, Border Security Force personnel captured two extremists at Dayalpura village in Amritsar District yesterday. The encounter followed an attempt by the extremists on a police officer, who was returning from Patti village. The officer managed to escape and, after getting reinforcement, chased the extremists. Two revolvers and some ammunition were recovered from the extremists.

'Miscreants' Set Fire to Buses in Punjab

BK260916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Some miscreants set fire to a Punjab Roadways bus and two Petro Road Transport buses in the Moga depot of Punjab Roadways in the early hours of today. The Punjab Roadways bus was completely burned. The other two buses were saved with the timely help of the Central Reserve Police Force men and the fire brigade. The Roadways employees with the help of the police managed to save at least 10 more buses by removing them from the spot. The deputy commissioner, the deputy inspector general of police, Ferozepore Range, and other senior officials arrived on the spot for investigations. No arrest has been made so far.

Meanwhile, according to an official spokesman in Chandigarh today, the number of arrested activists of the All-India Sikh Students Federation in Punjab has gone up to 119.

Order Curtails Carrying of Handbags, Containers

BK261024 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The government has prohibited the carrying of handbag and any other container to any place of public amusement due to incidents of explosion in the capital. The order will be enforced for 57 days from today.

Domestic Satellite 'Performing Excellently'

BK251303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] India's multipurpose satellite Insat-IB, now in orbit, is performing excellently. According to Indian Space Research Organization sources in Bangalore, the prototype model of the disaster warning system has been successfully tested. It is to be installed in selected coastal areas of the south Andhra Pradesh and northern Tamil Nadu. A scheme for TV service availability to jawans [sodiers] in forward areas using reception of Insat-I TV transmissions is under development. The sources said the satellite is expected to outlive its 7-year life by at least a year in view of the comfortable onboard fuel position.

Afghan Plane Crashes Near Quetta; Pilot Dies

BK261612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The pilot of the Afghan Air Force MIG-17 type aircraft which crashed yesterday about 6 miles west of Ghazaband Pass and about 15 miles northwest of Quetta apparently was fleeing to Pakistan. The pilot has been identified as Syed Mohammad Hashim, son of Abdul Hamid. He was a 2d Lieutenant and had a copy of the Koranic verse of Yaseen in his pocket. The plane probably flew from the Kandahar airport and entered into Pakistan's airspace at Chaman area from the (Spin Balat) side. The immediate reason for the crash of this aircraft is that the pilot of the aircraft tried to make an emergency landing due to fuel shortage. The fuel tank of the aircraft was empty, which was why it did not catch fire. The debris of the crashed plane was scattered over a 50-square-yard area. The dead body of the Afghan pilot was handed over to the Afghan consul in Quetta today.

Ziaul Haq Speaks at National Day Parade

BK231100 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The nation is celebrating Pakistan Day with traditional enthusiasm and fervor and with the pledge to spare no sacrifice to preserve independence and maintain complete unity. The main feature of the colorful programs in this connection throughout the country was the Pakistan Day parade in Rawalpindi this morning. President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq inspected the parade and received the salute. Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Mahathir bin Mohamed also received the salute of the parade.

Addressing the parade, the president said that the rapidly changing and complicated situation around the country has led to a manifold increase in our defense problems. The president said he believes that the Armed Forces, as in the past, will not allow Pakistan's security and dignity to be harmed. The president said Pakistan is a peace-loving country and desires friendly relations with the entire world, particularly the neighboring countries. We want to live in an atmosphere free from doubts and uncertainty so we can dedicate our national resources to the prosperity and well-being of our people.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said he is aware of the needs of the Armed Forces. He said it is our right to determine the defense requirements of the country, and we will fulfill this duty with complete responsibility. The president said the only way to make Pakistan strong and stable is to make wholehearted efforts to implement the Islamic system and to transform our individual and collective lives according to Islamic tenets. He said we have to make a pledge to surely implement the Mohammedan laws and the Koranic injunctions and to establish an Islamic society so Pakistan can become a fortress of Islam, in which not only the Muslims but also the followers of other religions live with dignity and tranquillity and enjoy equal rights.

AFP Reports Opposition Leaders Arrested

OW232310 Hong Kong AFP in English 2257 GMT 23 Mar 84

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Text] Islamabad, March 23 (AFP) — As the military government today celebrated Pakistani National Day, police arrested opposition fiures calling for the re-establishment of democracy in the country.

General Tikka Khan, former armed forces chief of staff under the elected government of executed former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was again confined to house arrest in Rawalpindi.

The general had been among a number of opposition leaders released over the past two months after putting themselves up for "voluntary arrest" last summer during a civil disobedience campaign led by the opposition coalition, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD).

At least five other politicians affiliated with the MRD were arrested in Rawalpindi only hours before they were to hold a National Day meeting, reliable sources said.

Police in Rawalpindi also searched homes of retired officers who belonged to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), founded by Mr. Bhutto and considered the most popular political grouping in the country.

Meanwhile, Pakistani head of state General Mohammad Ziaul Haq presided in Rawalpindi at a sumptuous military parade in honor of the Lahore declaration of March, 1940, adopted under British rule by Muslim League politicians in favor of the creation of Pakistan.

General Zia called on his soldiers to defend the "geographical and ideological" borders of Pakistan in the midst of the current changing "regional situation."

General Zia reaffirmed his wish to Islamize Pakistani society. But he did not mention the possibility of elections in Pakistan, a year before the March 23, 1985 deadline he himself set for establishing an Islamic democracy based on free elections.

No elections have been held in Pakistan since the military seized power in July, 1977.

Opposition figures today stressed that only elections in conformity with the constitution unanimously adopted in parliament in 1973 would be acceptable to the ten parties of the MRD.

PPP leader Ghulam Mustapha Jatoi called from his prison cell in Karachi, where he has been held since last August, for "the unification of all political parties" to guarantee a non-violent return to an elected regime.

Mr. Jatoi said in a communique to his supporters that if Pakistan did not have a democratic government, it was doomed to vanish.

Law Students Take Hostages, Clash With Police

OW241908 Paris AFP in English 1852 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Karachi, Pakistan, March 24 (AFP) — Several students were injured in a clash with police on Karachi University campus today where law students protesting against martial law had taken five secret service agents hostage, according to unconfirmed reports.

According to student sources, police used tear gas and clubs against students who were demonstrating against a ban on students unions imposed early this year to eliminate politics from the campus.

The reports said students took hostage five plainclothes men and hijacked six buses and three other government vehicles. The vehicles have reportedly been parked inside the Karachi University campus which was now under heavy police guard.

Police detained some 35 students and heavy contingents of police were waiting outside, the reports said.

Students of Karachi University, the Engineering University and Medical College have regularly staged protest demonstrations over the past three weeks.

Delhi: Hostages Released

BK251553 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] In Pakistan, students protesting against banning the unions clashed with police in Karachi today after freeing five civilian employees of the Army taken hostage yesterday. According to student leaders police fired tear gas to break up a rally protesting against the ban and detention of several students during last month.

School Examination Centers Made Prohibited Areas

BK251526 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The district magistrate of the Karachi West has declared examination centers as prohibited areas under section 144. This step has been taken to prevent disruption of peace at examination centers during the secondary school certificate examinations beginning today.

NEPAL

PRC President Calls Visit 'Complete Success'

BK231529 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The president of the Republic of China, Li Xiannian, has said his 5-day state visit to Nepal was a complete success and the cordial talks held between him and his majesty the king were fruitful. The Chinese president made the remarks in a message to his majesty the king while returning home this morning. Carrying home a full load of friendship of the Nepalese people for the Chinese people, we leave Nepal convinced that the Chinese-Nepalese friendly relations and cooperation are sure to develop and grow in strength with every passing day.

The Chinese president also extended hearty thanks to his majesty, his majesty's government and to Nepalese people for hospitality accorded to him during his stay in Nepal.

Departs 23 March

BK231525 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The president of the People's Republic of China, Li Xiannian, and Madame Lin Jiamei, left Katmandu for home by special aircraft this morning at the end of the 5-day state visit to Nepal. Their majesties the king and queen bid the distinguished (?visitors) a hearty farewell at Tribhuvan International Airport.

Earlier, at the Narayanhiti Royal Palace, President Li was accorded a salute, and national anthems of both countries were played. [passage omitted].

China To Assist in Road Construction Project

BK231527 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] China has agreed to undertake the construction of the Pokhara-Baglung sector of the proposed Pokhara-Mustang road as a token of good will, friendship, and close understanding between China and Nepal, says a press statement issued in Katmandu this morning by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The construction of the proposed 67-km road is expected to cost 1.5 billion rupees. The joint statement was signed by Foreign Minister Bishwa Pradhan and Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Tu Guowei. The feasibility study of the highway has already been completed.

The Pokhara-Baglung highway is the second largest road construction undertaken by China after the Katmandu-(Godari) highway.

Official sources said in Katmandu today that the Chinese Government has extended an invitation to the Intergovernmental Committee [IGC] to have their first meeting at Beijing at a mutually convenient time. The composition of the IGC is now being finalized. The committee has been entrusted with the task of promoting trade and expanding areas of cooperation between the two countries.

SRI LANKA

Trade, Shipping Minister Assumes Security Post

BK231324 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] A short while ago, the minister of trade and shipping, Lalith Athulathmudali, accepted office as minsiter of national security and deputy minister of defense. In an exclusive recording for the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, he said that this responsibility for natonal security, especially in the north and east, involves the program against terrorism; 99 percent of the people of this country, or probably even more than that, of all communities abhor violence and do not support terrorism. They need to be supported, and their desire for peaceful day-to-day life must be ensured. Facilities will be ensured for everybody. Terrorism will be defeated. There will be no miracles, but there will be steady unending determination and action to stamp out terrorism for the benefit of all the people who live in Sri Lanka.

Mr Athulathmudali requested and prayed for the support and assistance of all the people of Sri Lanka that he had had in the ever-increasing measure in the last 7 years. He was confident that in the new task he had that he will receive that affection and support which is so necessary to succeed in this matter. Success in this is success for all, and this, he promised, we shall achieve.

The new Security Ministry would be in charge of military and civil administration in predominantly Tamil areas in the north and east.

Discusses Terrorism

BK251111 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali has said that all illegal activities along the northern coast will be curtailed. Everyone should strive to maintain law and order if terrorism is to be eradicated. He noted that it is the intention of the terrorists to create chaos in the south to divert the attention of the Army. This game plan was disclosed by a terrorist who is now in custody, said the minister.

Mr Athulathmudali said that if peace and harmony was maintained in the south, it will not be long before terrorism would be wiped out.

The minister requested the support of the Sinhala-speaking population in particular to solve the problem.

The new minister expressed these ideas at his first public appearance today since he took the oath as minister of national security. He was speaking at a ceremony in Horana to mark the export of the first consignment of goods from the Horana export village.

Visits Jaffna

BK261111 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Problems can be solved only through justice. This was stated by the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, at the government agent's office in Jaffna. The minister, who flew to the north yesterday, also told security men stationed there to safeguard the people of the north from terrorism. He visited a military camp at Palali and a police station in Jaffna and also held talks with Army and police officials.

Mr Athulathmudali, making a statement to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation on his visit to Jaffna, said that action will be taken to stop illegal transactions on the northern coast. The minister again requested the support of the people for his new task of maintaining law and order in the country.

Parliament Passes Extension of State of Emergency

BK221642 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The extension of the state of emergency was passed in parliament a short while ago by a two-thirds majority; 122 members voted for, while 9 members voted against. The members of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, [names indistinct] were against the proposal.

Ministers Comment on Dispute With India

BK221701 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Premadasa said in parliament today that the government would never allow India to bully Sri Lanka. The government would stand up to any challenge. Sri Lanka, he said, had tolerated enough. The prime minister said this amidst cheers from both sides of the house. Mr Premadasa said that what was mentioned in the article published in *INDIA TODAY* that the training given to northern terrorists was true and the article had justified what he said in the house earlier.

Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed told the House that he brought the issue to the notice of the Indian high commissioner in SriLanka today. The high commissioner has stated that Indian authorities have made investigations and found that there was no evidence of any training for terrorists in Tamil Nadu or any other place in India. Mr Hameed said that the Government of Sri Lanka had requested the Indian Government to conduct early investigations so that the good will between the two countries could be maintained (?throughout).

The minister of trade and shipping, Lalith Athulathmudali, told the House that all political parties should forget their differences and get together to protect the sovereignty and integrity of Sri Lanka from foreign interference. He said that they had to concede that there was an external threat to Sri Lanka's independence now. Sri Lanka had been a friendly neighbor of India for a long time. It was their wish to preserve this friendship in future as well. India should understand that by caring for one community in Sri Lanka they should not (?forget) interests of the other. The minister said that several people who had gone to India since July disturbances were engaged in activities to create a state of Eelam by armed struggle. Tamil Nadu was openly hostile to the Government of Sri Lanka after the July riots. He said that we believe that youths are being trained in south India. They were preparing for an open battle or war and it was not just [word indistinct] operations which are now being carried out in the north. The terrorists are getting help from other sources. The northern terrorists have now become part of the voice of this (?movement). He said that Sri Lanka could not fight an external threat if its people were disunited [words indistinct]. He said the people should be united to maintain peace and [words indistinct]. The minister further said that Sri Lanka should grant citizenship rights to the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. By doing so, they could eliminate the threat of any outside interference. Then there would be no legal grounds for anybody to resort to country's [word indistinct].

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses Chemical Weapons

LD231347 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Second sermon delivered by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Friday prayers meeting at Tehran University — recorded]

[Excerpt] As you know, when the war began, the Iraqis came and occupied five of our provinces. We adopted a defensive posture. And up to now, our posture has always been defensive and Iraq is still on our territory — our city of Naftshahr and some of our hills are still occupied by the Iraqis. However, in every phase, we gradually retaliated by doing the same thing.

On the issue of hitting the cities, we practiced a great deal of patience. We were patient for a few years and did not deal a blow to their cities. However, Islam gave us the go-ahead and we did strike when finally we reached the point when the former attitude would have weakened and emasculated our position on our fronts and our combatants would have asked why we don't hit back as permitted by the Koran. And, we saw that the matter came to an end. Of course, Saddam might once again commit the same, but he lost. At present, neither the city of Basra nor any of the cities on Iraq's eastern front are safe.And Basra is now in a similar position to our city of Ahvaz earlier on when the Iraqis were 15 km away. This is the position of Basra. Shopkeepers say: We could only go into our shops behind sandbags. Taxi drivers say: We cannot go into the streets. All foreign workers have left the city. A great many factories have closed down. Security is totally absent. Despite all efforts, the city is gradually losing its grip and the same goes for the other cities, including Al-Qurnah, Al-'Uzayr right up to Hajj 'Umran and above. They have lost with their action.

Wuth regard to the chemical question, at present we are committed not to resort to chemical bombs. However, I do not know how long this will remain so. At present we are determined not to use them, but can one be patient forever if they continue their course of action? First of all, you should know that the chemical question is not all that important from the standpoint of its manufacture. Iran is the strongest country in the entire Middle East with regard to its chemical works. Our pharmaceutical works and our chemists and the scientists we have at our disposal are the best throughout the Middle East. We also have complex chemical industries and the construction of these chemical weapons is not a difficult thing.

If one were to analyse one of these bombs in the laboratory,the whole thing would become straightforward; everything is obtainable in Iran; and the manufacture of shells and bombs is very easy. A bomb is a can which is soldered after being filled with these things and then an aircraft will do the dropping. Our country manufactures various types of bombs; our country manufactures various types of shells. For instance, these 155-mm shells which we manufacture and which have a range of some 27 to 28 km, we could fill these with toxic chemicals instead of explosives. If we were to carry out this deed,our hand is definitely much more open than all the countries in the region in this sphere. [as heard]

But, because of the commitment we have made to humanity,we deem the race to utilize chemical bombs to be extremely dangerous. If this race were to begin and spilled over, in future no one and nowhere would have security. A chemistry student or a group could easily obtain such things. Then you would see what would befall the world. What meeting of heads of states could remain safe? If we were to be able to pour these substances into a tin with ease and then throw the same and set fire to the social community, you could see what would befall the world. This is a problem which the world understands.

This is something (?not unlike) an atom bomb. An atom bomb can be manufactured by a few world countries. This crime was perpetrated by the United States in Japan. No one can retaliate in kind against it, for if they could then everyone today would be throwing atom bombs at each other's heads. But this is worse than the atom bomb. Its danger is extremely grave. It will come to pass that every political personality, every head of state, if he were to travel somewhere, would have to carry a suitcase of antichemical clothing and masks. If we were to continue this race, such things would come to pass.

These arrogant criminal countries — never mind whether Eastern or Western — which have given Iraq this banned chemical or have allowed it to carry out this deed, or have given it delivery vehicles — let them ponder their own future. For if the nations were one day to realize that you do not observe or respect a single sanctity of international law, they have a greater ability to carry out such deeds than you have. You saw where the business of planting bombs lead, whereby the United States, with all its might, was thrown into the sea from Lebanon like a dog. With one single explosion, they set atremble the hearts of all the Western world's Yankees. But you [as heard] did this deed. You gave them bombs and they brought these and exploded them in the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party, in our prime minister's office, and in other places, and so other people catch on and do the same. You praised these people by referring to them as mojahedin and freedom lovers so other people saw if the people themselves could be hit one could more easily hit foreigners and armies of occupation.

Whatever you may do, unless an intense propaganda move is undertaken against such a course of events, rest assured that even in less than a year all you world politicians and personalities will be deprived of your security. Such a thing will happen in the world. [cheering]

Here I address the United Nations. The report by the experts is due to be given today and we know that the experts saw the unexploded bombs for themselves. We opened them for them. At the very time they were here, Iraq made daily use of these and we took these experts and showed them the injured victims and the unexploded bombs. They realized what the problem was. This is something obvious. The United Nations is confronted by an extremely grave historical turning point. We can go as far as to thank it for dispatching experts, but the rest of the problem remains. Unless the United Nations adopts a decisive stance here, it will commit such a crime against humanity that not even the waters of the Zamzam well [near the Qa'bah in Mecca] could wipe out such a black stain. But if it adopts a correct stance

today and the Third World countries, the nonaligned countries .... [sentence unfinished] If the superpowers who more than others fear for their glass palaces from the stones cast by others do not adopt a correct stance and do not condemn the criminal and attempt to spread a good name for Saddam, which he himself has tarnished, then let them know that they have betrayed humanity and this deed will be even more dangerous than that perpetrated by Mussolini in Africa. For on that day, the science of chemistry was not all that universally known. On that day,there did not exist all these fighting antiarrogance forces throughout the world. On that day, all these nations did not support the course of the liberation movements. Most of the liberation movements are today linked with one or several governments whereby they can obtain materiel from these governments, and this danger exists for the entire world.

From this Friday prayers rostrum, I declare to the world: We protest against these venal Western newspapers, these loudspeakers of the arrogant world of the East and West that they have not borne in mind their own mission — be that to safeguard themselves, their existence, and their future — and have chosen to remain silent about this monsterous and terrifying crime. And above all, we are complaining against these little Croesuses of the Arabian Peninsula and the southern Persian Gulf, who themselves could be subjected to such dangers, that they had better be clear-sighted or farsighted about this monsterous crime. All they do is gather in Baghdad once again and issue a resolution.

At any rate, let our combatants who are present on the fronts rest assured that, thanks to the plans we have made, we will stem this barbarous assault by Iraq and will reply to this barbarous deed with the same humanitarian weapons which you are wielding, but should a day come when we reach a deadlock and the Iraqis do not desist, then we will react to them exactly like they themselves and will speak to them in their own language.

IRNA: Iraqi Claims of Destroying Ships 'Lies'

LD251423 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA — Iraqi claims of having destroyed four ships and oil tankers at Iran's Khark Island are but mere lies, according to a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters of the Supreme Defence Council today.

Speaking to IRNA, the spokesman said the tottering Baghdad regime, every now and then restorted to such allegations in an attempt to portray the Persian Gulf as insecure and thus disturb the shipping in this region.

The important point here, he said, was that these Iraqi claims came particularly during the week-end and at a time when insurance companies and news stations were not active, so that "their denial would be delayed."

The spokesman further said that the desperate Iraqi regime by raising these false allegations, could perhaps create doubts in one's mind with the aid of Western propaganda machinery, for a short period of time. However, he stressed, repetition of these claims which are denied within a few days and which denial is also confirmed by relevant companies, has usually nothing for Iraq, even if they were brought up over the week-end.

In conclusion the spokesman for the War Information HQ reiterated that these Iraqi claims too, like other claims by the defeated Baghdad regime, were totally baseless.

The WIH spokesman said not a single ship in the area and [as received] the time alleged by Iraq had been attacked.

Meanwhile the REUTER news agency reported from Athens that the captain of a Greek ship *Trade Star* had seen no attack on ships while it was loading crude oil at the Khark oil terminal yesterday.

"The Greek tanker *Trade Star*, which was loading oil at Khark Island oil terminal, reported no attack took place up to 0800 GMT yesterday, March 24," REUTER quoted a spokesman for the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry.

Also the Swedish Zenith shipping company in contacts with ships in the Persian Gulf yesterday said it had not received any reports of disturbance.

The Swedish daily *SVENSKA DAGBLADET* quoted the director of the shipping company as saying that in direct contact with its oil tankers in the Persian Gulf yesterday he had received no reports about attacks on ships.

The paper said Zenith had 25 large and small tankers in the Persian Gulf.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,674

LD231731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,674 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, the committed and devoted warriors of our country, who have crushed the battle capabilities of the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist forces by opening timely artillery and mortar fire, disrupted the last-ditch movements of the Saddamists on the front lines. The enemy supply routes and communication axes in all the operational sectors are under the harassing fire of the mighty warriors of the army of monotheism.

Firing continues in the Hajj 'Umran, Marivan, and Panjwin operational sectors, and our units, by dispatching patrol groups and erecting observation posts, are defending the regions under their protection. Thanks to the heavy weapons fire of our warriors in these sectors, several enemy trenches were destroyed and a number of Iraqi troops were killed.

The victorious and self-sacrificing combatants of the corps of Islam, positioned on the southern front lines and the Majnun Islands, while bravely consolidating their defensive positions, are

relentlessly pounding the concentration points of the misled enemy with their effective fire and have pinned them down.

The resistant cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr came under the enemy's long-range artillery; one person was wounded and 14 residential units and 10 shops were damaged.

Communique No 1,675

LD241723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,675 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Exchange of heavy artillery fire continued in the northwestern operational sector yesterday. Our victorious forces opened fire on Iraqi infantry troops and observers and destroyed several enemy trenches and foxholes. Several enemy troops were killed or wounded and several vehicles were damaged. Exchanges of fire continued in the Hajj 'Umran, Sar Dasht, and Marivan operational sectors. Our forces halted enemy troop and supply movements and killed or wounded a number of troops.

Thanks to the fire of the air defense units and fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an Iraqi MIG-23 and a helicopter were shot down in the Hawr al-Huwayzah region at 1338 yesterday.

Sporadic exchanges of fire continued in the Western operational sector and was more intense in the Mehran region. The combatants of Islam, on various fronts of this region, by continuous observations and by dispatching patrol groups, alertly repulsed the efforts of enemy patrols who intended to penetrate the position of our forces in the Mehran region, and after killing or wounding a number of the Ba'thists forced them to flee.

Yesterday, sporadic exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued in the southern operational sector. The timely fire of our warriors on Iraqi troops and positions inflicted losses and casualties on them. The resisting city of Abadan was the target of enemy long-range artillery fire yesterday which damaged 4 houses and 10 shops.

Communique No 1,676

LD251710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,676 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on all fronts of the imposed war between the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam and the aggressor, Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq. On all the fronts, our combatants continued to defend their relevant sectors while strengthening their defensive positions, especially those in the Majnun Islands. They kept enemy motorized columns under observation and brought them under constant fire, crushing parts of enemy defensive lines and artillery and tank positions and inflicting losses and casualties on the enemy. On the Bakhtaran borders fronts, by dispatching patrol groups and setting up new observation posts, they neutralized enemy movements and patrolling operations, depriving the enemy patrols of any movement and inflicting casualties on them.

On the Abadan fronts, the combatants of Islam and Gendarmerie combatants [as heard] brought enemy positions and supply roads under fire, disrupting enemy movements on the Al-Faw-Basra axis, completely destroying 13 light and heavy weapons and a mortar launcher and killing or injuring several enemy personnel; they also set another part of their positions on fire.

Yesterday, Abadan again was brought under enemy fire, resulting in damage to the city hospital, 20 houses and shops and parts of the city's administrative installations; a number of our dear compatriots were also wounded.

2 Iraqi Planes Downed 23 March in Khaybar Area

LD240721 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA — Two Iraqi planes were shot down by Iranian jet fighters and anti-aircraft defence fire in Khaybar operational region, at 10:00 and 11:25 hours Friday. The invading enemy planes intended to bombard the positions of the Islamic combatants in the region.

IRNA Notes Soviet-Iraqi Nuclear Agreement

LD241843 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA — U.S. State Department officials say Baghdad has entered into an agreement with Moscow for building a nuclear plant to replace its predecessor destroyed by a fleet of Zionist regime's bombers in June 1981. A department spokesman said this week that even though work on building of the plant should proceed as anticipated, it would take at least eight to ten years before the plant may become operational.

Western media and especially British print media have pointed out that Saddam's government is entangled in a situation which in all probability would tempt him to use nuclear arms against Iran in Khaybar theatre if he had any.

Although both Moscow and Baghdad are signatory parties to an international non-proliferation agreement, and however difficult it is to ascertain whether Saddam Husayn has not entered into the agreement with the Soviets with an eye to its eventual exploitation against Iranian Muslims, it does not seem too difficult even now to imagine what will have become of him before his nuclear reactor can be modified to answer his wishful hopes. [sentence as received]

Islamic Jihad Organization Sends Warnings

GF251111 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Muslim revolutionaries who are members of the Islamic Jihad Organization have addressed letters to the embassies of the United States, Britain, France, and Italy in Beirut and Cairo, warning of extreme revenge upon the agents of those countries if their governments resume their arrogant policies.

Citing sources at the Italian Embassy in Cairo, in its report in this regard, AP said that the messages were sealed but signed by the Islamic Jihad Organization which took responsibility for last year's explosions in Lebanon and Kuwait. A number of Italian establishments in Cairo have received similar letters.

A spokesman at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta said the U.S., British, Italian, and French Embassies in Lebanon have received warning letters signed by the Islamic Jihad Organization. The letters affirmed that the forces of those countries which landed in Beirut have contributed to the killing of a number of [word indistinct] of the Muslim Lebanese masses. Similar letters were sent to U.S., French, British, and Italian Embassies in Tunis and Indonesia.

President Khamene'i Receives Group Leaving for Front

GF251700 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] During his meeting in Tehran today with a group of students at the country's teacher-training centers,who will leave for the front of right against wrong, Brother Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, praised the efforts they are making by reconciling the acquisition of knowledge with struggle and fighting against enemies.

The president said: The Muslim peoples have awakened and we are now beginning to listen to the call of awareness of people everywhere. The future is for progressive people who are seeking Islamic justice and dignity, he added.

Brother Khamene'i explained the struggle of the Muslim Iranian people to implement Islamic principles and Koranic laws and affirmed that Muslims throughout the world are viewing our Muslim Iranian people with appreciation and admiration for their sacrifices.

The president affirmed the need to eliminate all laws and systems which serve the rule of the world's infidels. When peoples and struggles unite against ruling powers, these powers can be eliminated, he said.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council affirmed that this year is the year of final victory for the heroes of Islam in the war which has been imposed by the regime ruling in Iraq against our Islamic Revolution.

Corps Mobilization Unit Departs for War Zone

LD231718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] In response to the imam of the nation's call on the combatants of Islam to stay at the fronts of the battle between truth and falsehood during the Nowruz period, hundreds of other volunteers of the Mobilization Unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Region 10, who have completed combat and other training courses, this evening left for the fronts of the imposed war.

Guards Request Volunteers for Battle Front

LD251725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Statement issued by Jerusalem Operation Central Headquarters of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Jerusalem operation central headquarters of the Guards Corps hereby invites all forces of the Labbayk Ya Khomeyni plan, who took part in the exercise phase of the Jerusalem liberation maneuver and who have registered in the second phase of dispatching the forces of the aforesaid plans to the battlefronts of truth against falsehood, to present themselves to their bases in each town by 1 April, the anniversary of the establishment of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These forces will then join the ranks of other blasphemy-fighting warriors of Islam, who are determined to continue their relentless battle in the trenches of God's holy war until the final victory is gained. Other volunteers intending to go to the battlefronts can also register at the mobilization centers of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps by the above-mentioned date.

[Signed] Jerusalem operation central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Brigade Members Vow To Stay at Fronts

LD241221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the combatants of the Moharram 72d Armored Brigade, in a telegram to Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, emphasized: We assure our dear imam that shoulder-to-shoulder with all the combatants of Islam, we will never leave the fronts until the overthrow of the Ba'th regime and the liberation of dear Jerusalem. We will consider the festival day to be when Iraqi Muslims and the world oppressed, under the banner of Islam, are liberated from the shackles of their own subservient regimes and we will all hold prayers of thanksgiving in Jerusalem, the first Qibla of the Muslims, under your imamate, illustrious imam.

Cabinet Discusses War, Elections, Holiday

LD250932 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA -- Reports on war fronts and important political events were discussed in cabinet meeting today presided over by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

Minister of Interior 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri submitted a report on the upcoming Majlis elections which highlighted an unprecedented registration of candidates.

Also discussed in the meet was speeding up of development projects. The government also declared Saturday March 31, public holiday, which comes on the heels of already declared holidays Sunday and Monday and follows the traditional day off, Friday.

Election Registration Deadline Extended

LD241513 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA — The registration period for Majlis candidates has been extended until the end of today (Saturday) because some candidates had not been able to register due to the Nowruz (New Year) holiday. The Interior Ministry announced this in a statement here today and added that all governor's and district governor's offices should continue the registration until the end of the day.

Until Wednesday, some 800 men and women, including those from Tehran and religious minorities, had registered as candidates for the Majlis.

The election will be held on April 15.